

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Japan Gains In New Offensive In China

Tightens Hold on Central Part of Country by Seizure of Important Railroad

IS THREAT TO SOUTHEASTERN COAST

Allied Plan to Blast Way into Region May Receive Setback as Result of New Moves

It is only natural that the American people should be more concerned with the invasion of Europe than with military developments in other theaters of war. Our military strategy has been worked out with the admitted purpose of knocking Germany out of the war first and then turning our full might against Japan. However important the coming campaigns in Europe will be to a United Nations victory, that victory will not be complete until Japan is brought to terms.

In the Far Eastern theater of war, military campaigns of great importance are now taking place, not only in Burma and India and in the islands which serve as approaches to Japan's inner fortress, but campaigns in China herself. And it is not too much to say that these campaigns are going against our allies, the Chinese, and that they have now reached a critical stage. The Japanese are apparently determined to strengthen their position in China in order to prepare themselves to meet an Allied invasion from the sea when Allied forces are ready to undertake that task.

Railroad Seized

The present campaign in China began about a month ago, in the province of Honan, in central China, and the Japanese have been making steady gains with each passing week. Their purpose is to weaken the Chinese and perhaps try to force them to surrender before the United States and Great Britain can turn their full attention to helping the hard-pressed Chinese.

The immediate objective of the latest campaign was to seize the railroad which connects the cities of Peiping, in northern China, with Hankow in the Honan province. That objective was achieved on May 9, when the remaining Chinese units holding sections of the railroad line were surrounded.

Now, the seizure of a railroad connecting two remote and unfamiliar Chinese cities may not appear to have much to do with a United Nations victory, but this railroad is vital to the Japanese position in China. It serves as a link between North China, where Japan is strongly entrenched, and central China, where her hold is less secure. It is also vital to further Japanese moves against the southern part of China.

The importance of this railroad and other lines of communication within China is enhanced by the successful drives which the Allies are making in other theaters. As Allied naval and

(Concluded on page 3)



America awaits the world of tomorrow

UNITED AIR LINES

A Time for Service

By Walter E. Myer

The summer season which we are now approaching will not be a rest period for students, as it often is for many. There is too much to be done. The schools will, indeed, be closed as usual, but war activities of various sorts beckon on every hand and the call is so urgent that it cannot be ignored.

Everyone expects that the war will reach its climax this summer. All that has so far been done is in preparation for the mighty effort of the next few months. The nation will be put to the test as it has never been before. These are days when no loyal American will fail to do his full duty. There is much for you, the students of the nation, to do during the weeks when the schools will not be in session; the period which we ordinarily set aside as vacation time. Here are a few suggestions:

The war-supporting activities in which you may have engaged must not be allowed to lag after school closes. The paper shortage is as acute as ever, so go ahead collecting waste paper. Conserve food. Do not drive a car a mile more than is necessary, for gasoline is scarce. Continue your collections for war sufferers. Go ahead participating in Red Cross work. Obey air-raid rules, and help in every possible way to make every blackout a success. Do not use the telephone except when it is necessary, and then be as brief as possible.

Keep in mind that the labor shortage is really serious. If possible, get a job during the summer months. If you work on a farm you will be helping to produce food for the emergency. If you can help out temporarily as a clerk in a store, a waiter in a restaurant, or an assistant in a shop, you will be helping to keep the wheels of essential industry going. If you do not obtain a full-time job anywhere, you can at least cultivate a victory garden.

If your parents are employed, you can look after the duties of the home and relieve them of work and anxiety. There is a great demand for girls who are willing to look after the children of employed mothers.

Help to keep up the morale of your family and your neighbors. These are very anxious days and it will be well if each one should consciously undertake to maintain a cheerful, hopeful atmosphere. When you are not busy with your war activities, work and play as if there was no such thing as war. Above all, do not grumble about the sacrifices which all must undergo as an incident of war.

Watch your health more closely than ever. This means that you must be careful of diet, that you must have the right amount of sleep and recreation, and that you must avoid exposures. The war is causing a shortage of doctors, nurses, and medicine, so by keeping well you will help the nation to get along in spite of the shortages. (Concluded on page 5)

U. S. Prepares For Changes After War

Scientific Advances Made Present Opportunities for Future Economic Progress

BUT GREAT PROBLEMS WILL ARISE

Way Must Be Found to Provide Full Employment if Disaster Is to Be Prevented

The same fortnight that brought news of the development of synthetic quinine by two American chemists also told that penicillin is now being produced in sufficient quantities for civilian needs. One thousand hospitals will be supplied with the wonder drug for distribution. The same fortnight also brought news of a new drug, called vivicillin, discovered by two German refugee scientists who had been making their experiments in England.

These are but a few of the miraculous discoveries which medical science is making in wartime. Scarcely a week passes without bringing news of some important development which is helping to relieve suffering and cure diseases. In earlier wars, disease took more lives than were lost on the field of battle. The same is true today among the Chinese soldiers where medical aid is not available (see page 3). Among our own armed forces, deaths from wounds have been reduced to a minimum as a result of the use of sulfa drugs. The science of psychiatry is daily making strides in curing—sometimes in a matter of hours—the mental casualties of battle, the breakdowns which occur as a result of the strain of living and fighting under actual combat conditions.

Unprecedented Progress

Medicine is but one of dozens of scientific fields in which unprecedented progress is being made under the impact of war. Many of the discoveries and advances now being made will not be fully felt by the civilian population until after the war because they are being used almost exclusively for war purposes. But scientific and technical progress is being made so rapidly and on such a vast scale that it cannot but have a profound effect upon the nature of our civilization after the war. Already people are looking forward to the day when this wealth of scientific information can be used for peace and human betterment instead of for destruction.

In medicine alone, the changes to be expected will be revolutionary. Diseases which were scourges before the war are being successfully combated and if the wartime progress in medical science is fully utilized after the war, the health of the nation will be vastly improved.

But these advances in medical science will not be automatically translated into better national health standards. The problem will arise as how best to make the services of medical science available to the people. Bitter issues will arise. Already the clouds (Concluded on page 6)

Facts About Magazines

Research Publications

TO keep abreast of world affairs, the student must often look further than the current month's crop of general magazines. On many occasions he needs detailed information—the full text of a speech, or the life history of a personality in the news—to understand events. Often too, gaps in his background require him to go back and consult a variety of publications which have carried information on a given subject.

There are several periodicals which make such research easily and quickly possible. All are available in most public libraries, and many are to be found in the average school library.

One of the most valuable references the student of world affairs can turn to is the magazine *Vital Speeches*, published twice a month by the City News Publishing Company. Each issue of this magazine contains about 10 speeches, reprinted by the editors as the most significant of those made in the two-week period between issues.

While political speeches are, as might be expected, predominant among those chosen, *Vital Speeches* in no way limits the subject matter of its contents. Discussions of science, economics, and education, among other topics, are frequently chosen for reprinting.

In selecting speeches on political questions, the editors of *Vital Speeches* follow a policy of complete impartiality. For example, in one issue speeches by Wendell Willkie and Colonel Robert R. McCormick—two men whose views are poles apart and who have opposed each other at every turn—were featured. Any speaker talking intelligently on a topic of current importance to the world or to the nation may have his words reprinted in *Vital Speeches*.

A monthly publication of equal importance to the student of world affairs is *Current Biography*, in which the careers of people in the news are summarized. Each issue offers about 80 biographical sketches, ranging from a paragraph to two pages in length.

The professions from which *Current Biography* draws its subjects are as varied as the individual personalities themselves. The occupational index in the front of each issue lists such varied fields as government and radio, art and journalism, religion and medicine. Side by side in its pages are sketches of such different types

as singer Frank Sinatra and Japanese diplomat Mamoru Shigemitsu.

Current Biography writeups are factual but far from dry. Presented in a lucid, informal way, they give all the exact data on the person under discussion—his birthplace, his parents' names, his school record, and the positions he has filled. Then to throw further light on his personality and activities, they quote all shades of comment and opinion he has inspired.

Each sketch is accompanied by a photograph of the subject. And for the student who wishes still more detailed information about a personality, references are listed at the end of each writeup.

At the end of each 12-month period, the *Current Biography* yearbook is compiled. In alphabetical order, all the sketches published during the year are reprinted with a cumulative index. Although *Current Biography* has been in existence only since 1940, it has already covered a good cross-section of the important people of our time.

The H. W. Wilson Company, publisher of *Current Biography*, is also behind two other important reference publications—the *Book Review Digest* and the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*. Both of these are standard library equipment and invaluable research tools.

The *Book Review Digest*, published monthly except July, lists important books in all fields, together with brief summaries of reviewers' comments on them. Listing is according to the author's name with a subject and title index for further reference. A six-months' cumulation is published each August, and an annual cumulation, in book form, in February.

The *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, a comprehensive index to the material in almost every existing American periodical, is published every month. Abridged editions, and editions spanning two to seven month periods are also published at regular intervals. A cumulative annual edition is published each June, and bound cumulative indexes are published every two years. Listing magazine references by subject matter, this publication is an invaluable guide for student research.

None of these periodicals, with the possible exception of *Vital Speeches*, is suggested as regular reading matter. But as supplements to the general magazines, all should be used.

Specialist on Latin America

Forthright Edward Tomlinson

MOST top-ranking newspapers include among their featured commentators a retinue of specialists. Besides regular news analysts who cover events in all fields of world affairs, they have aviation columnists, labor columnists, and a host of other columnists specializing in a wide range of varied topics.

Unlike the press, radio offers an almost uninterrupted diet of general news commentators. Outside of a few military experts like Major George Fielding Eliot, the majority of radio newscasters are analysts who make the world their province and limit their pronouncements to no special field.

But there is one conspicuous exception to this rule. It is to be found in the person of Edward Tomlinson, Dean of Latin American commentators, first man to broadcast regular programs on Latin America, and radio's one eminently successful specialized newscaster.

Behind Tomlinson's distinguished reputation lies a quarter of a century of close contact with the Americas to the south. The statement that "Edward Tomlinson has just returned from South America" frequently preceded his broadcasts. He is one expert who is constantly in close personal touch with his source. Today he is well past his 200,000th mile of travel in the lower half of the Western Hemisphere.

Tomlinson grew up in Georgia and went to college there. But while the First World War was raging in Europe, he left the United States to continue his education with graduate studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. The end of the war saw him off to South America on the first of his extended trips up and down its varied regions.

In the early 1920's, Tomlinson was a contributing correspondent for the New York *Herald Tribune* and *Collier's*, sending back feature articles on the economic and political life of the South American republics. Soon he became associated with the Pan American Union, and, in 1928, began to report the Pan American conferences.

About this time he helped to launch something totally new—broadcast accounts of the Pan American conferences, given in English and short-waved back to the United States. Ever since he has been the nation's number one radio spokesman on Latin American affairs.

At the same time, he has continued as a writer on the subject. Besides frequent articles for leading magazines, he has authored two books about Latin America—*New Roads to Riches*, discussing the economic development of the continent, and *In the Other Americas*, a general appraisal of Latin American affairs.

As a radio newscaster, Tomlinson is impressive for his rich, even voice and for his sound, unbiased interpretations of events. With his keen, analytical mind and the perspective of 25 years' intimate knowledge of

the Americas, he is able to present unusually well-rounded analyses. And, having neither an axe to grind nor a particular interest to promote, he is always ready frankly to call a spade a spade.

A good example of this was his analysis of the coup which ousted Ramon Castillo from Argentina's White House, the Casa Rosada, and placed Pedro Ramirez and his little clique of army officers in command of the government. While others fumbled and hesitated, waiting to see what stand the new regime would take on hemisphere solidarity and the Axis, Tomlinson came out immediately with plain words on what the change, and, incidentally, the whole Argentine policy of neutrality, meant in terms of its effects upon the cause of the United Nations.

As he sees it, Argentina's attitude toward both the war and her own form of government is the product of her economic prosperity. Being little affected by the war, Argentina's people have no desire to invite hardship by entering the conflict. Enjoying prosperous business conditions and a high standard of living, they are too preoccupied with personal gain to pay much attention to their government.

Because of this, according to Tomlinson, the Castillo dictatorship first gained a foothold in 1930. When this had worn itself out on its own corruption, the people were still not sufficiently inconvenienced to overthrow it with a genuinely democratic movement. It fell, almost by default, to a group of opportunists with no broader aims than the desire for personal power. In other words, Tomlinson sees the whole pageant of recent history in Argentina—neutrality, dictatorship, and pro-Axis leanings—as the result of popular indifference born of economic plenty.

As for the future of hemisphere relations, Tomlinson has equally definite ideas. Believing that the Americas will emerge from the war untouched by the great disasters and sufferings that are ravaging the rest of the world, he holds that the Western Hemisphere will enjoy an unparalleled opportunity to consolidate in a mighty economic unit.



Edward Tomlinson

China Faces Major Military Crisis

(Concluded from page 1)

air might closes in on Japan, her shipping becomes more vulnerable to attack. It becomes increasingly difficult for her to supply her forces in central and south China by river and sea, as she has been doing. If she can open up and hold the railroads and send men and supplies by land, her position will be greatly strengthened. Thus, the land wedge which has separated the armies of northern China and central China will be removed, and the way will be opened for the next step, which undoubtedly will consist of trying to open the railroad between Hankow and the important port of Canton in the south.

A glance at the map reveals the relative disposition of Japanese strength on the Asiatic mainland. Manchuria and most of north China are securely in Japanese hands. The seacoast in central China is equally firmly held by the Japanese. In the south, however, the hold is less certain. The ports of Canton and Hong Kong, the two most important in the south, are held, but there are other ports and other stretches of the seacoast that are not controlled by Japan. Her garrisons in the south must be supplied by sea. Japan's objective now is to tighten her hold in that part of China by opening a land route.

Japan Forewarned

Japan is anxious to realize this objective at present because she has been forewarned by Admiral Nimitz and other American military and naval leaders that only by establishing powerful Allied military bases in China can the final showdown against the heart of Japan take place. She has also been warned that these bases will be established by striking directly at the coast of southeastern China and opening Chinese ports to our ships and men. The Japanese know that every drive undertaken by Admiral Nimitz brings American naval and air power closer to the coast of China. They know that General MacArthur's forces from the south are edging closer to China from another direction. They know that before long they may not be able to reach southern China except by land.

The loss of either Canton or Hong Kong, or both, would be a bitter blow to Japan, for both are excellent ports and both have railroad connections with the interior of the southern part of China, still in Chinese hands. The Japanese cannot protect the southern coast of China by seapower without risking the bulk of their naval strength in an encounter with the Americans—which they show no disposition to do. Hence their present emphasis upon a land route.

Although the city of Hankow has been in Japanese hands since 1938, the Japanese have been unable to take full advantage of its location as a supply base and base of military operations. Because the railroad to north China was not entirely in their hands, they have been obliged to send supplies and reinforcements to Hankow by river boats along the Yangtze. These boats have made excellent targets for Allied planes based in the city of Loyang, to the northwest of Hankow. Most of the boats were able to travel only at night, hiding out during the daytime.

Not only have the Japanese established control over the 180 miles of railroad between Hankow and Peiping, but they are also making a concerted drive to capture the city of Loyang,

which is the most important Chinese base north of the Yangtze. As we go to press, they have come to within six miles of the city and are pressing hard to capture this vital point.

If Loyang falls to the Japanese, the Allied position in central China will be seriously handicapped. Far more important to our overall strategy, however, will be the success or failure of Japan's drives against southern China. If she succeeds in closing the entire southern coast of China and in establishing a firm grip upon the railroads of this section, the task of storming the China coast by sea will become far more difficult. It will be the difference between landing against a relatively undefended and weak coast and one which has been converted into a strong fortress. Thus the land campaigns in China now are a race against time, a struggle to prevent the Japanese from carrying out their strategy before our forces are able to storm the coast from the sea. Both sides realize the vital stakes which are involved.

In this race against time, the determining factor will be the staying power of the Chinese soldiers, aided by the few supplies that can be flown in from bases in India and by the air support which General Chennault's planes and pilots can provide. Both the supplies and the air support will be inadequate to the task, but they will do much to help prevent disaster.

Greatest dependence, however, will be placed upon the valor of the Chinese soldiers and their staying power. Time and again, it has been freely predicted that the Chinese armies would collapse and be forced to surrender to the Japanese. Time and again, they have upset predictions, and now they are on the threshold of their eighth year of war. They have been obliged to modify their tactics to conform with their sad lack of weapons and munitions. They soon found that they were unable to defend their towns and cities and, after the fall of Hankow and Canton in 1938, they began to fight a war of movement and attrition, whereby they would engage in guerrilla tactics, destroying Japanese equipment, surrounding Japanese units and thus cutting down Japan's strength and nullifying many of her gains.

The Chinese deficiency in arms and equipment of all kinds is apparent in the present battles in central China. There the Japanese have tanks, hundreds of armored cars and military trucks, and excellent equipment. Most of the Chinese soldiers must move on foot, fight without heavy weapons. They are poorly clothed, and are not

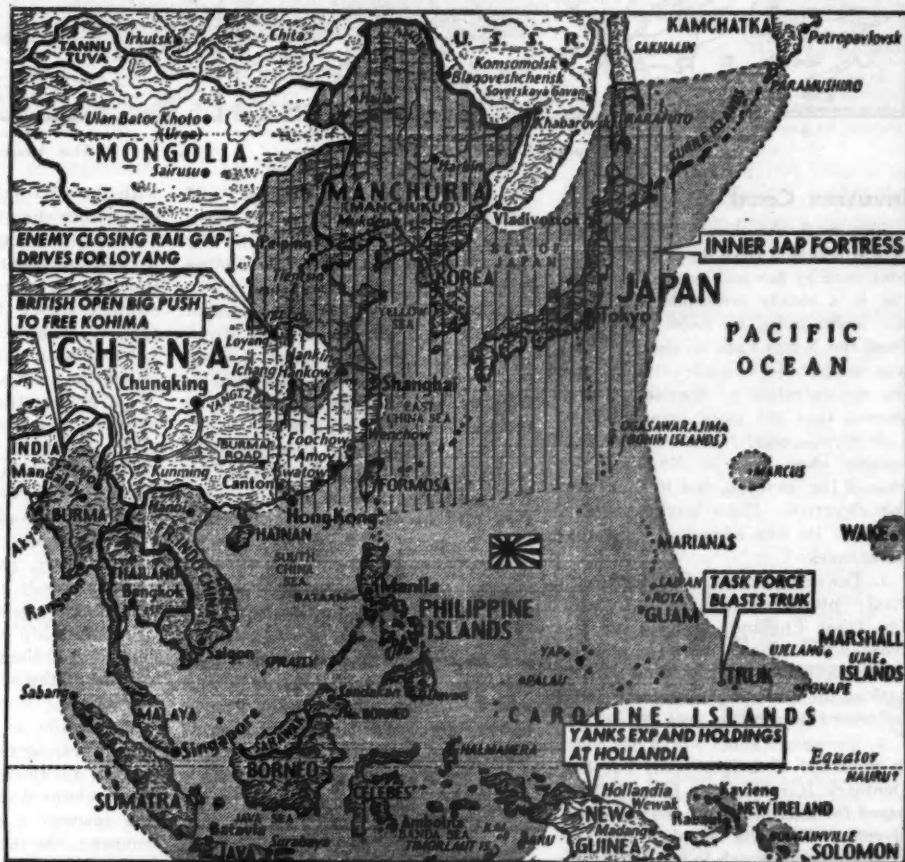
so well trained as they might be. They are even lacking the drugs and medical supplies so essential to an army. It is no exaggeration to say that the Chinese losses from preventable sickness have far exceeded losses in battle.

Again the Chinese have sent an urgent plea to the Allies for help in the new military crisis confronting the country. "If the Chinese soldiers haven't the necessary weapons, they cannot win battles," the Allies were reminded a few days ago by an official of the Chinese government.

Despite China's urgent need, there

ernment. Machinery and workmen have been moved from the industrial centers to the interior, where factories have been set up. Small-scale cooperatives have been established in remote parts of the country to use local raw materials for hundreds of items useful in the war effort. But these, together with the supplies sent in by air, are but a trickle of the goods needed to fight effectively.

To make matters worse, Free China is in the throes of wild inflation. Prices have risen to fantastic heights and continue to rise at the rate of about



Since this map was drawn, the Japanese have succeeded in seizing the entire length of the Hankow-Peiping Railroad

is little the Allies can do at the moment to bring aid to the hard-pressed Chinese at the battle fronts. War materials cannot be sent in from overseas because all the important coastal points, with communications to the interior, are in Japanese hands. There has been some smuggling of war goods through the port of Hong Kong, but this is hardly sufficient to meet China's needs. The Burma Road has been closed and Allied fighters in Burma are struggling desperately to open it. The only remaining route is the air route, over the eastern end of the Himalayas. Thus, China finds herself virtually stranded and is likely to remain stranded until American sea and air power can blast a path to the coast of southern China.

Meager Resources

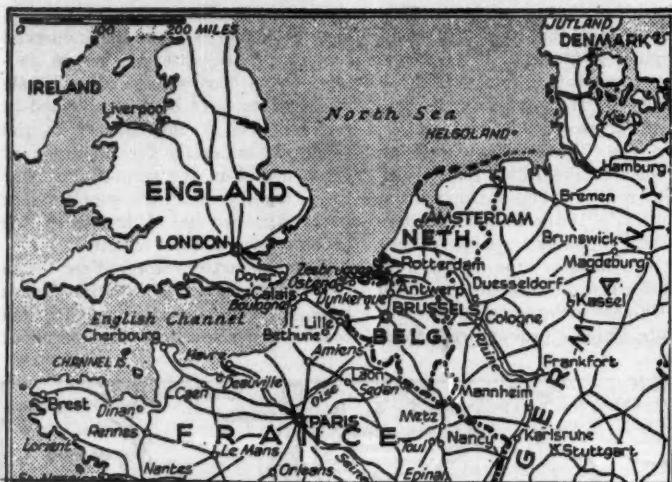
Meanwhile, the Chinese must fall back on their own meager resources. And these resources are meager enough because the areas of the mainland which Japan controls are those which contained nearly all China's prewar industry, railroads, and other resources vital to modern warfare. Nevertheless, the Chinese have performed miracles in developing the interior of the country, the regions under the control of the Chungking gov-

10 per cent a month. Much of the space available in planes for China has to be used to transport Chinese currency. This financial instability has not only brought great suffering to the Chinese people; it has also tended to slow down production because manufacturers have been unable to fulfill their government contracts due to constantly fluctuating prices.

Nor is that all. Political instability is widespread. The feud between the government of Chiang Kai-shek and the Chinese Communists remains in spite of the temporary truces that have been effected since the outbreak of the war. The Communist armies have not always received the support they needed to fight the enemy, and there have been frequent armed clashes between Communist groups and forces of the central government. The threat of civil war in China always looms as a possibility, although new negotiations have been undertaken between Chiang and the Communists in the hope of preventing this disaster.

The picture in China is far from bright as that country approaches the end of the seventh year of war. But the Chinese are hopeful that they can hold off until the rapidly increasing might of their allies can establish effective contact with them.

The Story of the Week



The Invasion Coast



Also Awaiting D-Day

Invasion Coast

Last week the unrelenting blasting of the invasion coast by Allied planes continued by day and by night, mounting in a steady crescendo. Most of the 3,600 miles of coast stretching from the North Cape to the Pyrenees was subject to possible attacks, but the concentration of bombing clearly showed that the main invasion blow—or blows—must fall in an area reasonably close both to England, the base of the invasion, and to Germany, the objective. Each section of this area has its own advantages and disadvantages:

1. *Denmark* lies close to Germany's vital centers, but it is uncomfortably far from England. Shoals off the coast, a lack of good harbors, and the easily defended narrow land bottleneck of the Jutland peninsula all make invasion through this area difficult.
2. *Germany's* short North Sea coast is naturally a danger spot, but like Denmark it is too far from British bases for maximum air and sea effectiveness. Outlying islands and shoals restrict the approach to narrow, easily mined channels, and the coast is heavily fortified.
3. *The Netherlands* offers some good ports and outflanks some of the strongest of the German Westwall fortifications. Even so the area is heavily defended and could be easily flooded.

There are sand bars, islands, and mined channels protecting the coast, which is too far from England for shore-to-shore use of small landing craft.

4. *Belgium* is within easy reach of England, and its 42-mile sea frontier offers gentle, sloping beaches for landing. However, this area is strongly defended and behind it lie the Rhine and the Westwall.

5. *The French* coast from Belgium to the mouth of the Seine River at Le Havre is the ideal natural invasion area. Its closest point is only 22 miles from England; the farthest is only 90 miles. Landing craft of all sizes could quickly cross the channel here in good weather with maximum concentration of air support. There are suitable beaches and several ports, with a good network of communications stretching inland. On the other hand, Germany has her deepest and strongest concentrations of defense in this area, backed up by the Westwall and the Rhine.

6. *The Norman and Brittany* peninsulas of France beyond Le Havre are easily accessible from England, and offer several ports and smooth beaches.

Ward Dispute

The fundamental issue which led the Montgomery Ward Company to defy the War Labor Board and to refuse to extend an expired contract

with the CIO union was the question of whether the union still represented a majority among Ward's employees in Chicago. That question presumably should have been settled by the recent election among Ward's Chicago employees sponsored by the National Labor Relations Board, in which the union won a majority of the votes cast.

Yet neither the union nor the management was satisfied as the election ended and as the government returned the Ward Chicago plant to private management. The union warned that more strikes would result unless a new labor agreement was signed, while Sewell Avery, chairman of the company, expressly refused to sign a contract which would grant "maintenance of membership or any form of closed shop." And the congressional investigations of the whole matter are being continued.

Meanwhile, as this is written, the controversy at the Hummer Manufacturing Company, a subsidiary of Ward's located at Springfield, Illinois, has reached a critical point. This company, like the Ward Chicago plant, has defied a War Labor Board order, and the President has been asked to intervene. It is generally agreed that there is no question regarding the President's authority should he order this plant seized, for it is clearly a war-goods manufacturer.

Congress at Work

As this paper goes to press Congress is hard at work trying to finish up several important pieces of legislation before adjourning late in June for the political conventions. Lend-Lease has been approved for another year, and the national debt limit is being raised to \$240 billion.

It now seems certain that Americans will have an easier job in the future when it comes to paying federal income taxes. A bill already passed by the House provides that, for 30,000,000 taxpayers with salaries under \$5,000 a year, all the tax will be withheld at the source and no returns will need to be filed.

For 20,000,000 other taxpayers forms would be much simpler under this bill. The victory tax would be abolished. Flat exemptions of \$500 each for the taxpayer, his wife, and each dependent child would replace the present exemptions. There would also be a flat deduction allowed each taxpayer, amounting to perhaps 10 per cent of his income, as a blanket allowance for contributions, interest,

taxes, and so on. The basic rate would be three per cent instead of the present six, and surtax rates would run from 20 per cent up to 91 per cent of all income over \$200,000 a year.

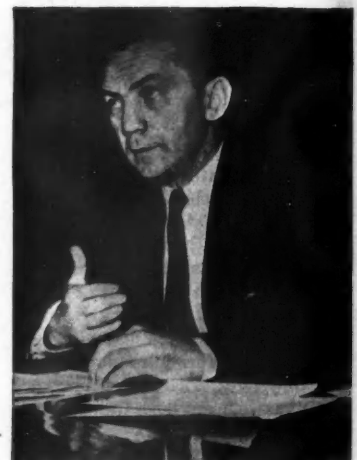
New Navy Secretary

Republicans and Democrats alike have hailed James V. Forrestal as an ideal choice for the new Secretary of the Navy. It is generally agreed that no other civilian could match his knowledge and experience for the job.

Since August 1940 Forrestal has been Undersecretary of the Navy, and as chief assistant to the late Secretary Knox he has been largely responsible for the construction program which has made the United States Navy the most powerful in the world. In order to get first-hand information about the war, he has made two extensive trips to the Pacific battle fronts—in 1942 and early this year. He is a strong advocate of keeping the Navy powerful after the war.

A trim, square-jawed man, who looks much younger than his 52 years, Forrestal keeps in trim by vigorous games of golf, tennis, and handball. Born and reared in New York, he earned part of his expenses in college by waiting on tables. During the last war he enlisted in the Navy, and then transferred to naval aviation.

The new Navy Secretary is a Democrat. Before joining the Navy De-



James V. Forrestal

partment he was a prominent and highly successful banking executive on Wall Street. One of his most outstanding characteristics is his ability to talk little but to listen much.

Election in Eire

The fundamental difference between a parliamentary system of government, such as the one in England, France, or Eire, and the type of government operating in the United States, is illustrated in the recent political developments in Eire and the forthcoming election in that country.

What happened was simply this: the government headed by de Valera was backing a certain piece of legislation in the Irish Parliament (the Dail). Although most observers considered the bill to be only a minor domestic matter, de Valera took the defeat of the bill as a serious concern, and ordered a new election of the Dail. In this way he takes the issue directly to the people: if they re-elect a majority of de Valera's party (the Fianna Fail) it will mean that the people back de Valera's policies. If the Fianna

In accordance with our schedule, subscriptions for the school year expire with this issue of *The American Observer*. The *American Observer*, however, is published during the entire calendar year. Many high schools which remain in session during the summer have found our paper valuable in their current history work. We invite our readers to continue their study of current problems through the columns of *The American Observer*. The summer subscription price, in clubs of five or more, is three cents a copy a week. Single subscriptions, or clubs of less than five, are 50 cents for the summer period, payable in advance. This includes the issues of May 29 and of June, July, and the first two weeks of August.

Meanwhile, we should like to remind those teachers who have not already placed their tentative orders for next fall that we shall be glad to receive them during the summer months.

Please note change of address. For twelve years, *The American Observer* and its associated publications have had their offices in one of the buildings of the Brookings Institution, located at 744 Jackson Place. On June 1, we shall move into our own building, and our address thereafter will be 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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Fall suffers a smart defeat, it will be a defeat for de Valera's policies and he will not be chosen again as prime minister.

In the United States the chief executive—the President—is elected by the people for a set term, which cannot be shortened except by impeachment or death, and the executive is totally separate from the legislative body, Congress. If a bill desired by the President is defeated—as often happens—it does not affect the President's tenure of office, nor can he order Congress dissolved or schedule new elections.

In a parliamentary system, such as Eire's, however, the people do not elect the chief executive directly. Instead, the people elect only the legislature—parliament—and the leading member of that body—who is usually the head of the major party—is chosen by the President of the country (or the King if there is one) to form a cabinet and carry out the duties of the chief executive. Thus this executive, who is known as the premier or prime minister, is closely connected to the legislature, and his tenure of office depends on keeping the support of that body.

Far East Test Results

A test on the "Far East and Pacific Area" was published in the April 17 issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. Reports received from several hundred schools in all parts of the nation reveal that the typical high school student answered correctly almost exactly half of the 51 items in the test.

The nationwide median was 25. Grade medians were as follows:

Twelfth Grade	25½
Eleventh Grade	25
Tenth Grade	25½
Ninth Grade	24

Item No. 6 in the test contained a typographical error: the word "oranges" should have read "oranges."

Surplus War Goods

Last year in Detroit the Army Air Forces had a large quantity of usable machine tools which they no longer needed, and which they sold for \$36,924. Subsequent investigation revealed that the tools were worth more than \$1,700,000.

It is to prevent such waste as this that William L. Clayton, Surplus War Property Administrator, is now laying plans for the disposal of probably \$50,000,000,000 worth of goods and plants owned by the federal government. His task will be the most complicated merchandising operation ever tried, and it will be carried out of necessity



CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. Upon his return to the White House, President Roosevelt conferred with leaders of Congress—(left to right) Rep. Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator Alben Barkley, and Rep. John W. McCormack

through the methods of experiment and of trial and error.

Clayton's organization (SWPA) will not actually sell the properties, nor will it even decide what is surplus property. That job will be handled by five other agencies.

What SWPA will do is to set the policy under which the goods may be sold. It will test markets to determine fair prices, and weigh these prices against the original cost of the goods. It will try to prevent speculators from getting the goods for resale purposes, and will determine whether public auctions, negotiated sales, sealed bids, or fixed prices would be the best methods in each case.

A New History Book

Did you know that: As late as the 1800's farmers thought that iron plows poisoned the soil?

Lawyers, up until nearly 1800, were looked upon as social outcasts?

Until 1847 the person who received a letter paid the postage, not the person who sent it?

James Madison was the first President of the United States who made a steady habit of wearing long trousers?

NEWS QUIZ OF THE WEEK

1. In what part of China have the Japanese and Chinese been engaged in a major campaign?
2. Why is the Hankow-Peiping railroad of such great importance to Japan?
3. Why is Japan seeking to strengthen her hold on the southern parts of China?
4. What effect may Japan's recent campaigns in China have upon future American strategy in the Pacific?
5. Why has the United States been unable to send more supplies to China?
6. What is China's principal internal economic problem? Political problem?
7. What are some of the more important medical discoveries made during recent weeks?
8. Why is the issue of prepaid medical care likely to be bitterly contested after the war?
9. What are some of the changes likely to take place in the field of aviation after the war?
10. Why is the automobile industry not expected immediately after the war to revolutionize its designs?
11. What effect is the increased productivity of labor likely to have upon postwar employment?
12. In what field of newscasting is Edward Tomlinson a specialist?
13. Name some of the leading reference and research publications.
14. According to Forrest Davis what is the principal objective of President Roosevelt's foreign policy?
15. True or false: The new Secretary of the Navy is a Republican.

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SMILES

They say that when Henry Kaiser is away from his private office he puts a sign on his door which reads: "Out to Launch."

Adolf Hitler called Air Marshal Hermann Goering and ordered that he retaliate against England for the devastating air attacks on Germany.

"Certainly, Fuehrer," said Goering. "Shall I send one plane or both?"

"Flying experts say that rocket planes will carry passengers across the continent in five years."

"That's too slow. I could walk it in that time."

At an entertainment a woman had just finished singing "My Old Kentucky Home," when a man in the audience was seen in tears.

"Are you from Kentucky?" someone asked.

"No," he replied, "I'm a musician."

Customer: "What color are your window blinds?"

Clerk: "Window blinds are all shades."

The Army cook had just whipped up orders of fried eggs for a hungry mob of soldiers. Wearied by his efforts, he sat down and wrote a letter to his family. "Dear Folks," he began, "for the past three hours shells have been bursting all around me."



"They were playing war and Junior captured all their mobile equipment."

A girl was speaking to her escort of the many bearded American sailors. "It's the most amazing thing I ever saw," she said. "Only the other evening I saw three of them—and very young, too—all with full beards."

"Probably back from overseas service," explained her escort. "Were they wearing ribbons?"

"Oh, no," she said. "They just let them flow loose."

"Is Mrs. Smith an active member of your sewing circle?"

"My goodness, no! She never has a word to say—just sits and sews all the time."

Teacher: "Sammy, can you name a cape in Alaska?"

Sammy: "No'm."

Teacher: "That's right—Cape Nome."

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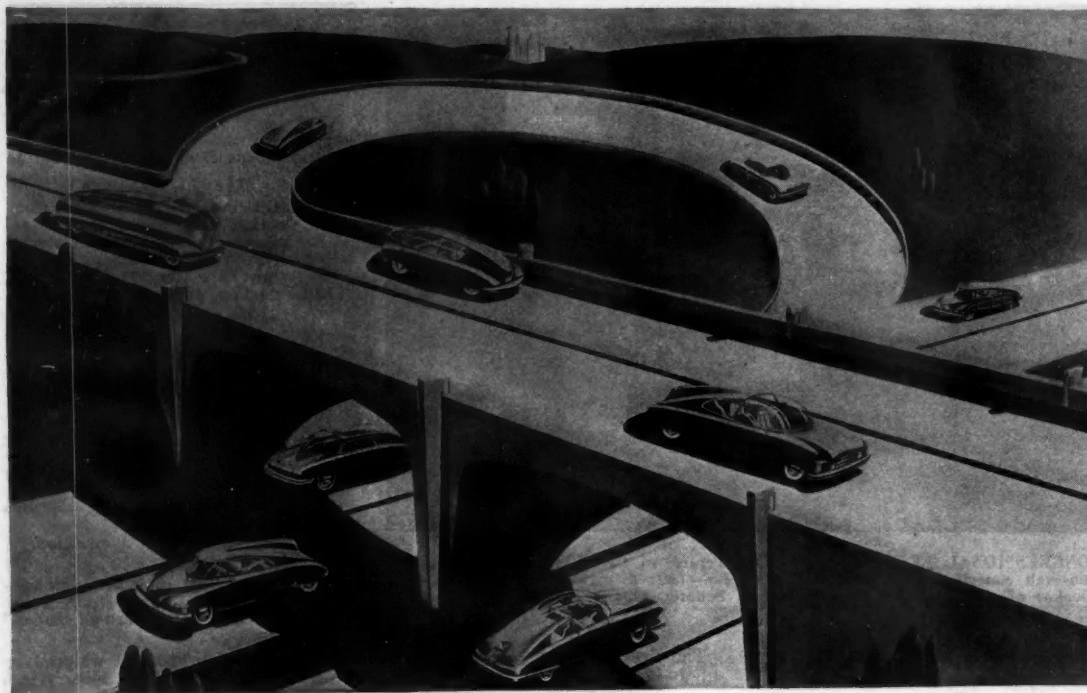
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NEW MIRACLE DRUG. Dr. Hans Enoch, one of the biochemists who developed the drug, violicillin, which in many ways is similar to penicillin, is a German refugee scientist in England (see page 1)



GEORGE W. WALKER DRAWING

Transportation will undergo many changes after the war

Postwar Changes Anticipated

(Concluded from page 1)

of the coming storms are on the horizon as the question of providing some form of prepaid medical care is debated. In certain war industries systems of health insurance have been inaugurated. Certain cities are experimenting with plans whereby people can be assured adequate medical care on a prepaid basis. The big issues of the postwar era will develop in connection with the role which government should play in making medical service available to the people.

Medicine is not the only field in which profound changes are taking place and in which postwar issues and problems are being raised. The war is effecting great economic changes. We have become the most completely self-contained and self-sufficient nation in the world as a result of the war. We no longer depend upon foreign sources for materials which only three years ago were vital to our welfare. Synthetic rubber factories are being built to produce 1,000,000 tons of rubber a year. We will no longer be dependent upon plantations in the Netherlands Indies and Malaya for this vital material. We have now discovered a substitute for quinine. Artificial silk is here to stay. Once confronted by an acute shortage of aluminum, we are now making aluminum from various clays. We are manufacturing textiles from wood pulp and milk. The plastics industry, already surging forward before the war, has grown by leaps and bounds since Pearl Harbor. Revolutionary changes will result from the development of electronics.

Postwar Transportation

No one needs to be reminded of the advances made in aviation since the outbreak of war, almost since last month, for that matter. It takes little imagination to foresee the role of aviation in the America of the future. Planes which carry 400 passengers are being built and larger ones are contemplated. The fighter plane which travels 500 miles an hour or 750 (as is predicted) gives an indication of what may happen in postwar civil aviation.

It is difficult to realize that before

the war only 33 American pilots had flown across the Atlantic and that today more than twice that number arrive at a single airport in a single hour from across the ocean. Commercial air lines are already working on postwar schedules to various world capitals. Regular overnight schedules to London or Paris after the war are now anticipated as a matter of course.

Postwar aviation is likely to have as revolutionary effects upon our peacetime lives as military aviation has had upon the science of war itself. Our ideas of distance will have to be altered drastically. Whether the small plane for family use becomes a reality or not shortly after the war, the American people will be far more air-minded than they have ever been.

Advances in aviation may have other effects upon our postwar way of living. One factor which may limit the use of the airplane for airborne freight traffic is the amount of gasoline which it consumes. It takes a ton of gasoline to fly a ton of freight across the Atlantic. Some of the fuel may be saved by the use of gliders attached to planes. The problem may be solved by the practical development of synthetic gasoline.

"Revolutionized" Automobile?

To what extent the postwar automobile will be "revolutionized" is not yet clear. There have been many predictions that the car of the future will be completely streamlined, with engine in the rear, will be much lighter than the prewar models, with aluminum and plastics largely taking the place of steel. It may well be that great changes in the construction of automobiles will take place after the war, but it is doubtful whether these changes will come suddenly. When the war ends, it will be necessary for the automobile plants to start producing cars quickly so as to give employment to workers discharged from war jobs. The plants will be able to start production on the type of car they were turning out before the war without great delay, whereas it would take considerable time, perhaps two years, to make the dies and tools for the manufacture of new-type automobiles. It seems probable, therefore, that the

"car of the future" will come gradually rather than suddenly.

The railroads are already looking to the future and making plans for postwar transportation. They are aware of the competition they will receive from planes, automobiles and buses, and trucks. The trend toward lighter, faster trains, similar to the familiar transcontinental "streamliners" of prewar days will probably be continued, with emphasis upon greater comforts and luxuries to attract customers.

Television and Housing

Television is expected as a matter of course after the war. It is generally believed that television sets, costing about \$200, will be put on the market when the war is over, and that this instrument will bring in crystal-clear pictures in black and white. Color television, though improved, is not expected for several years. Although there are today few television stations, many more are expected shortly after the end of the war. Television holds the promise of being one of the great industries of the postwar period.

The perennial need for housing has been intensified by the war. The war has reduced private housing construction to a minimum, with the emphasis

placed upon the construction of housing facilities for war workers and the armed services. There will thus be a great housing shortage after the war. The greatest need will be for housing facilities for persons of low or moderate incomes.

Many new methods of construction have been adopted during the war. Houses, in which the various sections are built in factories, have been put up in large numbers to meet emergency housing needs. The prefabricated house may be the answer to the problem of cheap housing.

Many cities, in studying their postwar problems, are devoting considerable attention to their housing needs. They realize that slum clearance and the erection of decent living quarters is a pressing problem which must be dealt with.

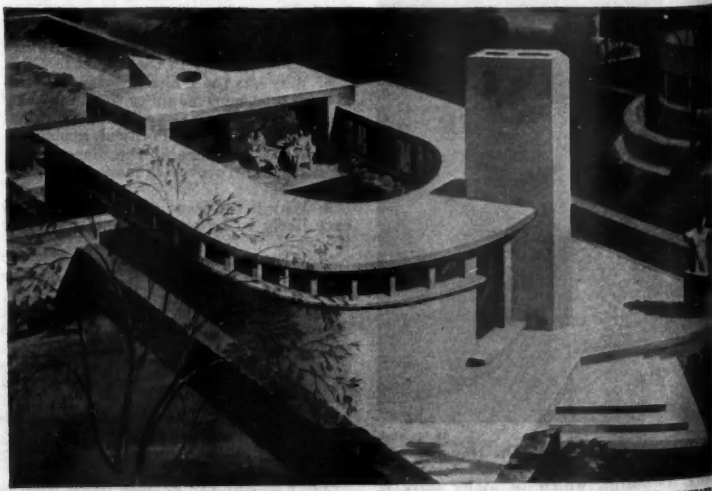
One of the many changes, which is not apparent on the surface but which may have more revolutionary effects upon our postwar life than any other, is the great increase in the productivity of labor since the beginning of the war. Part of this has come through the introduction of more labor-saving machinery in factory and on farm. The farm is rapidly becoming a "food factory." Already there are in use on farms mechanical corn-pickers, beet-harvesters, cotton-pickers, and many other machines.

Challenge to Nation

In the factories, much more work is being turned out per man per hour than before the war. It is estimated that the productivity per man-hour in American factories will have increased 13½ per cent between 1941 and 1944. This will mean that fewer workers on the farm and in the city will be needed to produce the same amount of goods.

But what we will need after the war will not be fewer workers but more workers. It is estimated that after the war we must provide 55 million persons with jobs if we are to have prosperity and economic stability. Yet in 1940 there were only 46 million persons employed. How can we find jobs for nine million additional workers after the war when each worker can produce more than before the war?

In the answer we find to that question will depend the future progress of our country. Many of the technical and scientific advances made during the war can be translated into higher standards of living for the people as a whole. But they also carry a threat, for they may spell depression and unemployment. It is the great responsibility of every segment of our national life—government, business, labor, and above all, the average citizen—to face this challenge squarely.



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Points of View

What Authors and Editors Are Saying

(The ideas expressed in these columns should not be taken to represent the views of the editors of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

The "Great Design"

In the May 13 *Saturday Evening Post*, Forrest Davis has an article, "What Really Happened at Teheran," in which he discusses the foreign policy of the Roosevelt administration. One of the major objectives of that policy is to come to an understanding with Russia whereby that country can be brought into a permanent organization for peace. Comparing the Roosevelt objectives with those of Woodrow Wilson, Mr. Davis makes the following comment:

The task of an American President seeking to define this country's vital interests in the postwar Europe of the 1940's is widely different from Wilson's. Yet there is one broad resemblance. Roosevelt, too, has a "great design." While the earlier President sought to organize the family of nations into a world structure founded on law, Mr. Roosevelt is striving to bring the Soviet Union, which has fallen out with the European tradition, back into the family of nations as a condition precedent to world organization. Convinced that unless that reunion takes place, there can be no world association, no assured hope of peace, the President's "great design" rests on two sweeping assumptions. First, he accepts the prevalent view that the Soviet Union will be able to organize effectively its manpower and resources in peace as well as war, thus becoming permanently a great power. He further assumes that the interests of a victorious Russian state can be reconciled to those of the Atlantic powers,

China, and the small nations of Europe and America . . .

Mr. Roosevelt, gambling for stakes as enormous as any statesman ever played for, has been betting that the Soviet Union needs peace and is willing to pay for it by collaborating with the West. By no means unaware of the risks, he declines, nevertheless, to acknowledge them even to close associates. The White House is a delicate sounding board, reflecting everything that happens everywhere on the globe. It would be absurd to suppose that the President has not considered the implications of his Russian policy in all angles and facets. The alternative—a Russia excluded, aggrieved and driven in on itself to prepare for the inevitable war of continents—was to him so much worse that he saw himself with little choice. He



At Teheran

chose, moreover, to prosecute his policy so sincerely that the Russians, proverbially mistrustful, could have no ground for misgiving.

Real Japanese

Sydney Greenbie, who has spent years studying Japanese problems, lists in the May *American Mercury* a number of misconceptions we have about the Japanese. Such misconcep-

tions include the idea of the personal courage of the Japanese, his indifference to death, his calmness and stoicism. Here is what Mr. Greenbie says about some of the more widespread misconceptions:

Modern Japanese codes of behavior were shaped long ago by a series of great Japanese dictators who imposed continuous moral defeats upon their subjects, making them retreat and demean themselves in relation to victorious overlords.

What we have not quite understood is that despite a superficial modernization of the country, Japan's mental life has undergone no genuine change. The swashbuckling *shoguns* and *samurai* retain the same power over the cowering Japanese soul that they had during the epoch of Japanese self-imprisonment, even though tanks, airplanes, and Tommy guns have replaced the sword . . .

The spiritual discomfort of the Japanese suddenly released into the world after centuries of hibernation has showed itself for nearly a century in something which we westerners have taken for sensitiveness, pride, and need of saving face. This is another of our popular fallacies. To begin with, saving face is not exclusively an Oriental characteristic. It is only a somewhat naive exaggeration of the personal consideration westerners demand and grant all the time. Among us it is based on a supposition that God created us all equals. There is no such supposition among the Japanese. In no land on earth is life for the ordinary man more consistently a face-losing matter than in Japan. Browbeaten in relation to a superior and to authority, the Japanese bows, hisses meekly, his brow upon the mats before a succession of superiors. The most inconsequential official has dignity that must be placated by bowing and scraping.

TVA Flood Control

While there are many features of the TVA program which are subject to sharp controversy in Congress and throughout the nation, there is almost unanimous approval of its flood-control measures. During the heavy rains this spring, these flood control meas-



We have many misconceptions about the Japanese

ures were tested. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* sent a staff member to compare the uncontrolled regions with those of the Tennessee River Valley. He reported:

A day's plane trip down the flooded Mississippi from St. Louis to Cairo, Illinois, and then up the disciplined Tennessee River is a study in shocking contrasts. The one is a picture of destruction, the other a picture of orderly tranquility. One is the beast of uncontrolled waters; the other the beauty of waters made to serve man instead of to terrorize and despoil him.

From the air the confluence of the swollen Missouri and the rampaging Mississippi is a vast brown waste of water reeling angrily outside its banks. Above and below the heavily leveed cities of St. Louis and East St. Louis down to the confluence of the Ohio and the Mississippi, disaster has spilled itself over tracks and freight yards, through crumbling dikes into thousands of acres of yielding land, into homes and barns and buildings.

Before many minutes the plane was low over a region in the valley of the Tennessee River almost identical in topographical characteristics to the hand-flat lands where the Mississippi has its way. Yet here was a green smiling untroubled valley going about its orderly business as though it had not had 25.12 inches of rain since January. The rainfall in February alone was 9.71 inches, 214 per cent of normal, and the heaviest downpour in 54 years.

The American Observer Index

Volume XIII: September 13, 1943, through May 22, 1944

A
Adams, J. Donald. May 1-2
Agriculture. Mar 27-3; May 22-6
Airplanes. See Aviation and War fronts: air
Albania. Sep 27-6
Allen, Frederick Lewis. Sep 27-8
Aluminum. Feb 21-5
Alvarez del Vayo, Julio. Feb 21-8
American Red Cross. Mar 13-4
Anti-Semitism. Nov 29-5; Jan 3-7
Arabia. Feb 21-4; Mar 6-1; Mar 13-4;
Mar 27-3
Argentina. Sep 20-4; Oct 25-4; Dec 13-4;
Jan 10-2; Jan 24-1, 3; Feb 7-4; Feb
28-4
Armstrong, Hamilton Fish. Feb 7-8
Army, U. S. See United States: Army
Associated Press. Oct 18-5
Atlantic Charter. Apr 3-3
Atrocities, war. Nov 15-8; Feb 14-2
Australia. May 15-1
Austria. Nov 15-6, 8
Automobiles. Sep 27-3
Avery, Sewell. May 15-6, 7
Aviation. Sep 13-4; Oct 25-5; Nov 1-5;
Mar 27-1; May 22-6 (See also War
fronts: air)
Azores Islands. Oct 25-4

B
Badoglio, Pietro. Oct 11-4 (See also Italy:
government and politics)
Baldwin, Hanson. Jan 24-8
Balkans. Sep 27-1; Oct 4-6; Nov 8-2;
Apr 3-1
Baltic States. Oct 4-6
Barkley, Alben W. Mar 6-4; Mar 13-1
Baruch, Bernard. Sep 20-4; Jan 10-6; Jan
24-2; Feb 28-4; Mar 6-1
Belgium. Feb 21-5; May 8-1, 4
Berna, Ernest. Oct 11-5
Biddle, Francis. May 15-6, 7
Bingham, Alfred M. Oct 25-8
Blair House. Apr 24-4
Bliven, Bruce. Oct 18-8
Bolivia. Jan 3-5; Jan 10-2
Bombing, "obliteration." Mar 27-1
Bose, Subhas Chandra. Nov 29-8
Bowles, Chester. Jan 10-6
Bradley, Omar N. Jan 31-2
Brent. May 1-5
Brewster Aeronautical Corporation. Oct 25-4
Brewster, Ralph Owen. Oct 11-5; Oct 25-1;
Mar 20-7
Becker, John W. Feb 28-2; May 8-4

British Commonwealth of Nations. Feb 14-
4; May 15-1
British Empire. May 15-1 (See also India)
Bulgaria. Sep 27-6; Jan 3-4; Jan 17-4;
Apr 3-7
Bureaucracy. Mar 13-2
Burma. See War fronts: Burma
Butler, Hugh. Dec 13-5
Byrnes, James F. Jan 10-6; Mar 13-2

C
Cairo conference. Dec 13-4, 7
Canada. Jan 3-5; May 15-1
Canby, Henry Seidel. May 1-2
Canol project. Dec 6-5; May 15-4
Garaway, Hattie. Nov 8-5
Cartels. Sep 20-5; Mar 20-1
Chandler, Albert B. Oct 25-1
Chetniks. See Yugoslavia
Chiang Kai-shek. Sep 27-4; Dec 13-2
Children in occupied Europe. Mar 6-2
Chile. Mar 6-4
China. (See also War fronts: China)
air route to. Jan 17-4; Jan 31-5
famine. Feb 21-5
government. Sep 27-4
and Japan. Dec 13-7; May 22-1
pirates. Jan 17-5
politics. Feb 28-5
president. Dec 13-2
soldiers. Sep 20-5
Chinese immigration to U. S. Oct 18-5
Churchill, Winston. Sep 20-3; Oct 4-5;
Nov 8-4
Citizenship. Jan 3-8; Feb 28-1; May 1-7
Civil liberties. Sep 27-5; May 8-6
Clapper, Raymond. Dec 6-8; Feb 14-1
Clark, Mark W. Sep 27-2
Clayton, William L. Mar 6-7
Colebaugh, Charles. Nov 8-8
Congo, Belgian. May 8-4
Congress. See United States: Congress
Connally, Tom. Nov 8-4
Cooperative movement. Feb 7-3
Corsica. Oct 4-4
Cousins, Norman. May 1-2
Cowley, Malcolm. Oct 18-8
Crime. See Juvenile delinquency
Crimes. Nov 1-4
Cripps, Stafford. Nov 29-6
Crowley, Leo. Oct 11-1
Czechoslovakia. Feb 21-5

D
Dardanelles, the. Oct 4-7
Davis, William H. Jan 10-6

Democratic party. Feb 7-2; Feb 28-5
Denmark. May 8-1; May 22-4
Dennis, Lawrence. Jan 24-4; May 8-1
Dewey, Thomas. Sep 20-2, 7; Apr 17-1;
May 8-4
Dodecanese Islands. Nov 29-4
Draft. See Selective service and Manpower

E
Economic warfare. Oct 11-1
Education:
American Education Week. Nov 1-1; Nov
8-1
in the Army. Sep 20-5; Oct 11-5; Mar
20-2
Federal aid. Nov 1-7
in postwar Europe. Jan 3-4
for veterans. Jan 17-4
Eichelberger, Clark M. Feb 21-8
Eire. Mar 20-4; Mar 27-1, 2; May 1-3;
May 15-1
Eisenhower, Dwight. Feb 21-2
Elections. See United States: politics
Eliot, George Fielding. Jan 17-7
England. See Great Britain
Estonia. Oct 4-6
European Advisory Commission. Mar 20-4

F
Far East and Pacific Area:
test results. Dec 6-4; May 22-5
tests. Oct 25-3; Apr 17-8
Fascism. Feb 14-2
Federal Council of Churches of Christ in Amer-
ica. Oct 25-1
Federal Union. See Student Federalists
Films. See Moving pictures
Finland. Oct 11-4; Feb 14-4; Feb 28-1;
Mar 6-4
Flood control. May 22-7
Food. Sep 27-2; Oct 4-5; Nov 15-1; Mar
20-4 (See also Subsidies, food)
Forrestal, James V. May 22-4
France:
French Committee of National Liberation.
Oct 4-4; Nov 15-5; Nov 29-5; Dec
13-4; Jan 10-4; Feb 7-1; Feb 21-4;
Mar 27-5; Apr 3-4; Apr 17-7; Apr
24-5
underground. Mar 20-2
Vichy government. Dec 6-4; Jan 10-4;
Feb 7-1; Mar 27-5
Franco, Francisco. Jan 10-5 (See also
Spain)

G
Gandhi, Mohandas. Nov 29-8
Gaulle, Charles de. Feb 7-1; Feb 21-4;
Apr 17-7; Apr 24-5 (See also France:
French Committee of National Liberation)
Germany:
Berlin. Dec 6-5
and France. Feb 7-1
home front. Oct 11-1; Nov 1-4; Feb
14-4
looting occupied countries. Nov 1-5; Nov
8-5
navy. Jan 10-4
postwar fate. Oct 4-7; Nov 15-1; Dec
6-1; Mar 27-3
satellite nations. Apr 3-1
Gilbert Islands. Dec 6-2
Giraud, Henri. Apr 24-5
Grafton, Samuel. Nov 15-2
Great Britain:
Americans in. Mar 6-3
budget. May 15-4
foreign policy. Sep 13-1; Oct 4-1, 2, 6;
May 15-1
government. Nov 8-4
health program. Mar 6-5
housing. Mar 13-5
and Ireland. Mar 27-2
labor. Oct 11-5; Feb 7-5; Mar 20-5;
Apr 17-5; May 8-5
Palestine policy. Mar 13-1
wartime conditions in. Feb 7-2
Greece. Sep 27-6; Nov 1-5; Feb 21-5
Gripsholm. Nov 1-5
Grosvenor, Gilbert. Mar 20-8

H
Haiti. Nov 1-5
Hancock, John. Mar 6-1
Hannegan, Robert. Feb 7-2
Harriman, W. Averell. Oct 11-5; Oct 18-2
Hawaii. Sep 27-5; Feb 14-5
Health:
colds. Jan 10-5
doctor shortage. Dec 13-5
Great Britain. Mar 6-5
influenza. Jan 3-5
postwar medicine. May 22-1
wartime medical progress in U. S. Oct 18-3
Henderson, Leon. Apr 17-2
Hershey, Lewis B. Dec 6-5
Hess, Rudolph. Oct 4-5
Hibbs, Ben. Nov 1-8
Hines, Frank T. Mar 6-7
(Concluded on page 8)

Index

(Concluded from page 7)

- Hitler, Adolf. Sep 20-4
Hopkins, Harry. Mar 13-2
Horthy, Nicholas. Apr 3-1
Housing. May 22-6
Howe, Quincy. Mar 20-8
Hull, Cordell. Oct 25-2; Apr 3-1
Hungary. Sep 27-6; Mar 27-4; Apr 3-1
- I**
Ickes, Harold L. Jan 3-4; Jan 10-6
India: (See also War fronts: India)
special issue. Nov 29
famine. Nov 15-5
inflation. Nov 1-4; Nov 29-4; Dec 6-1; Jan 3-5 (See also Prices; Taxes; and Wages)
Inter-American University. Sep 27-5
International cooperation. Sep 27-3; Oct 25-1; Nov 1-4; Nov 15-1, 8; Feb 21-1; Mar 20-4; Apr 3-2; Apr 17-3 (See also United States: foreign policy; Student Federalists)
special issue. Oct 4
International Labor Office. May 8-5
International trade. Oct 11-1; Apr 3-3
Invasion of western Europe. Sep 13-1; Jan 3-1; Jan 10-4; Feb 7-4; Feb 21-3; Mar 6-5; Mar 20-1; May 8-1; May 15-2, 4, 8; May 22-4
Iran. Sep 20-4
Italy: (See also War fronts: Italy)
Allied policy toward. Nov 15-6, 8
declares war on Germany. Oct 25-4
government and politics. Sep 27-5; Oct 11-3, 4; Nov 15-4; Dec 13-4; Apr 17-1; Apr 24-5
morale. May 8-2
navy. Mar 13-5
and Russia. Mar 27-4
surrenders. Sep 20-1
- J**
Japan:
special issue. Apr 24
government. Mar 6-2, 4; Apr 24-3
home front. Feb 14-5; Apr 24-2, 6; May 22-7
people. Apr 24-2; May 22-7
and the Philippines. Oct 18-7
postwar fate. Dec 13-7; Apr 24-7
and Russia. Oct 4-7; Oct 25-6; Apr 17-5
war role. Jan 10-1
Jews. See Anti-Semitism and Zionism
Jinnah, Mohammed Ali. Nov 29-8
Johnston, Eric A. Mar 27-3, 5
juvenile delinquency. Jan 17-5; Jan 31-2
- K**
Kaiser, Henry. Oct 18-3
Kaltenborn, H. V. Mar 13-8
Kellogg, Paul. Mar 13-8
Kilgore, Harley. Mar 20-3
Kirchwey, Freda. Oct 11-8; Feb 21-8
Kohler, Charlotte. Feb 17-8
Kuomintang party. Sep 27-4
Kurile Islands. Feb 7-4
- L**
Labor: (See also Great Britain: labor and Manpower)
disputes. Sep 13-2; Oct 25-4, 5; Nov 1-4; Nov 8-1; Nov 15-4; Jan 3-4; Jan 10-4; Jan 17-1; May 15-1, 7
labor-management committees. Nov 1-5
union conventions. Oct 18-4
unions. Oct 25-5; Mar 20-5
Latin America. Dec 13-5; Apr 3-5; May 1-5 (See also names of Latin-American countries)
Latvia. Oct 4-6
Laval, Pierre. Dec 6-4; Feb 7-1
Lawrence, David. Nov 8-8; Jan 10-8
League of Nations. Oct 4-3; Oct 11-3
Lebanon. Nov 29-5
Ledo Road. Mar 27-4
Lehman, Herbert H. Dec 6-4
Lend-lease. Sep 13-5; Oct 11-6; Oct 25-6; Jan 31-3; Mar 27-4; May 1-5; May 22-4
Leningrad. Feb 7-4
Lewis, John L. Sep 13-2; Oct 25-4, 5; Mar 20-5; May 15-7
Lindley, Ernest K. Feb 7-8
Lippmann, Walter. Sep 13-3; Sep 27-8; Oct 4-2
Lithuania. Oct 4-6
Lobbying. See United States: Congress—pressure groups
Lodge, Henry Cabot. Oct 25-1
Luce, Henry L. Dec 6-8
Lyons, Eugene. Jan 17-7
- M**
MacAfee, Helen. Feb 14-8
McCormick, Anne O'Hare. Jan 31-8
Mackinac conference. Sep 20-1
Magazines:
American Mercury. Jan 17-7
Architectural Forum. Dec 6-8
Asia and the Americas. Jan 24-8
Atlantic Monthly. Sep 20-8
Book Review Digest. May 22-2
Bulletin of the Pan American Union. Apr 17-2
Business Week. Jan 31-8
Christian Century. Mar 6-8
Collier's. Nov 8-8
Common Sense. Oct 25-8
Commonweal. Mar 6-8
Current Biography. May 22-2
Current History. Feb 28-8
- Flying. May 8-7
Foreign Affairs. Feb 7-8
Fortune. Dec 6-8
Free World. Feb 21-8
Harper's. Sep 27-8
Inter-American. Apr 17-2
Life. Dec 6-8
Nation. Oct 11-8
National Geographic. Mar 20-8
Nation's Business. Jan 31-8
Nature. Mar 27-8
New Republic. Oct 18-8
New York Herald-Tribune Weekly Book Review. May 1-2
New York Times Book Review. May 1-2
Newsweek. Dec 13-8
Pan American. Apr 17-2
Popular Mechanics. Mar 27-8
Popular Science. Mar 27-8
Reader's Digest. Nov 15-2
Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature. May 22-2
Saturday Evening Post. Nov 1-8
Saturday Review of Literature. May 1-2
Science Digest. Mar 27-8
Science News Letter. Mar 27-8
Scientific American. Mar 27-8
Scientific Monthly. Mar 27-8
Skyways. May 8-7
Survey Graphic. Mar 13-8
Survey Monthly. Mar 13-8
Time. Dec 6-8
United States News. Jan 10-8
Virginia Quarterly Review. Feb 14-8
Vital Speeches. May 22-2
Yale Review. Feb 14-8
- Manpower. Sep 13-1; Sep 20-4; Oct 11-4; Oct 18-5; Jan 24-1; Mar 13-4; Apr 17-4; May 1-4; May 8-2
Maquis. Mar 20-2
Marshall, George C. Sep 20-4; Oct 4-4; Dec 6-2; Jan 17-2
Marshall Islands. Dec 6-2; Feb 14-4
Mead, James. Oct 11-5; Oct 25-1; Mar 20-7
Medicine. See Health
Merchant marine. Sep 27-1
Military training, postwar. May 8-2
Moline plan. Jan 31-2
Monopoly. Nov 1-5; Mar 20-1
Montgomery Ward & Company. May 8-4; May 15-1, 7; May 22-4
Morgenthau, Henry. Oct 25-1
Morrison, Charles Clayton. Mar 6-8
Moscow conference. Sep 27-4; Nov 15-1, 8; Dec 6-1
Mountbatten, Louis. Nov 1-2
Moving pictures:
Farmer at War. Mar 27-2
Know Your Ally: Britain. May 15-5
Our Enemy—The Japanese. Mar 13-4
in schools. Mar 13-4
World at War. Mar 20-7
Muir, Malcolm. Dec 13-8
Morrow, Edward R. Mar 6-8
Mussolini, Benito. Sep 27-5
- N**
National Catholic Welfare Conference. Oct 25-1
Navy, U. S. See United States: Navy
Negroes. See Race problems
Nehru, Jawaharlal. Nov 29-8
Nelson, Donald M. Jan 10-6
Netherlands, the. Jan 24-3; Feb 21-5; May 8-1
Netherlands East Indies. Oct 4-4; May 1-4; May 8-4
New Deal. Jan 10-3
New Zealand. May 15-1
Norway. May 15-8
- O**
"Obliteration" bombing. Mar 27-1
Office of Price Administration. See United States: Office of Price Administration
Office of War Information. See United States: Office of War Information
Oil:
Arabian. Feb 21-4; Mar 6-1; Mar 13-4; Mar 27-3
Canol. Dec 6-5; May 15-5
fuel oil shortage. Sep 27-5
shipments to Great Britain. Oct 25-6
Oleomargarine. Nov 15-5
- P**
Pacific. See War fronts: Pacific
Palestine. Dec 13-5; Mar 13-1
Pan American Day. Apr 3-5
Pan American Union. Apr 3-5
Papen, Franz von. Feb 14-2
Paramushiru. Feb 7-4
Partisans. See Yugoslavia
Pearson, Drew. Oct 4-8; Jan 10-8
Pegler, Westbrook. Oct 18-8
Pétain, Henri. Dec 6-4; Feb 7-1
Philippine Islands. Oct 18-1
Pius XII, Pope. Mar 27-7
Poland. Oct 4-6; Oct 18-5; Jan 17-6; Jan 24-4; Jan 31-1
Politics. See United States: politics
Poll, Student Opinion. Sep 27-3; Oct 18-2; Nov 1-2; Nov 8-3
Poll tax. Dec 6-5; Apr 24-4
Population. Jan 24-3
Portugal. Oct 25-4; May 1-1
Postwar America. May 15-2; May 22-1 (See also Citizenship and Reconversion of war industry)
Postwar Europe. Apr 17-1 (See also International cooperation and Russia: foreign policy)
Pravda. Jan 17-4; Jan 31-4
Prensa, La. Jan 24-3; May 15-4
Presidential candidates. See United States: politics; and see entries under names of candidates
- Pressure groups. See United States: Congress—pressure groups
Prices. Oct 4-5; Nov 8-5; Nov 15-1; Dec 6-1 (See also Inflation and United States: Office of Price Administration)
Primary elections. See United States: politics—primary elections
Prisoners of war. Feb 14-3
Production, U. S. war. Sep 13-1; Sep 27-4; Nov 1-5; Nov 15-5; Dec 13-5; Jan 10-6; Jan 17-2
Profits. Feb 7-1
Pucheu, Pierre. Mar 27-5
Puerto Rico. May 15-1
Pyle, Ernie. Oct 25-8
- Q**
Quinine. May 15-4
- R**
Race problems. Sep 27-5; Nov 29-5; Jan 3-7; Apr 17-4
Radio broadcasting. Oct 18-1
Railroads. Sep 20-5; Jan 3-4, 5; Jan 17-4; May 22-6
Rationing. Mar 6-3; May 15-4
Rayburn, Sam. Jan 3-6
Reconversion of war industry. Jan 24-2; Feb 28-4; Mar 6-1
Red Cross. See American Red Cross
Renegotiation of war contracts. Jan 10-5; Feb 7-1
Republican party. Sep 20-1; Feb 7-2; Mar 20-2, 4; Apr 17-1
Rodman, Selden. Oct 25-8
Rogge, O. John. May 8-5
Romania. Sep 27-6; Oct 11-4; Feb 14-4; Apr 3-7
Rome, bombing of. Mar 27-7
Rommel, Erwin. Feb 21-2
Roosevelt, Franklin D. Sep 27-4; Mar 6-4; Mar 13-1
Roosevelt, Theodore. Oct 4-2
Rosenman, Samuel. Mar 13-2
Rudd, Herbert F. Apr 17-3
Rumania. See Romania
Russell, Richard B. Oct 11-5; Oct 25-1, 2; Nov 8-5
Russia: (See also War fronts: Russia)
agriculture. Sep 20-5
and Finland. Feb 28-1; Mar 6-4
foreign policy. Sep 13-1, 2; Oct 4-1, 2, 6; Jan 31-4; Feb 14-1; Mar 27-3; May 22-7
history. Sep 13-2
and Italy. Mar 27-4
and Japan. Oct 4-7; Oct 25-6; Apr 17-5
languages. Mar 6-5
Leningrad. Feb 7-4
medical progress. Jan 24-4
and Poland. Oct 18-5; Jan 17-6; Jan 24-4
postwar reconstruction. Feb 28-3
USSR and its 16 constituent republics. Feb 14-1
- S**
St. John, Robert. May 15-6
Sakhalin. Apr 17-5
Salvador, El. May 1-5
Saudi Arabia. See Arabia
Scandinavia. May 15-8
Schacht, Hjalmar. May 8-2
Science in postwar America. May 22-1
Sedition trial. May 8-1, 5
Selective service. Sep 27-4; Dec 6-5; Feb 28-5; Apr 17-4; Apr 24-4
Semester tests. Jan 17-8; May 8-7
Senators' report. See United States: Congress—five senators report
Seversky, Alexander de. Feb 14-8
Sforza, Carlo. Sep 27-3; Oct 11-3, 4
Shirer, William L. May 1-2
Skilled, Edward. Mar 6-8
Smith-Connally Act. Oct 25-4; May 15-6, 7
Soldier vote. See Voting: by members of the armed services
Soule, George. Oct 18-8
South Africa. See Union of South Africa
Spain. Sep 13-5; Jan 10-5; Jan 31-4; Feb 14-5; Feb 21-1; Apr 24-4; May 1-1; May 15-4
Spangler, Harrison. Sep 20-1, 7; Feb 7-2
Stalin, Josef. Sep 13-2
Standley, William H. Oct 11-5
Stettinius, Edward. Oct 11-8; Jan 31-3; Mar 27-5
Straight, Michael. Oct 18-8
Student Federalists. Mar 6-5; Apr 17-3
Subsidies, food. Oct 4-5; Nov 15-1; Feb 21-4
Sullivan, Mark. Sep 20-8
Supreme Court. See United States: Supreme Court
Surplus war goods. May 22-5
Sweden. Sep 13-5; Apr 24-4; May 1-1; May 15-8
Swing, Raymond Gram. Feb 21-8
Switzerland. May 1-1
Synagog Council of America. Oct 25-1
- T**
Taxes. Oct 18-4; Oct 25-1; Nov 1-4; Feb 14-4; Mar 27-5
Teheran conference. Dec 13-4; May 22-7
Television. May 22-6
Tennessee Valley Authority. May 22-7
Tests. Oct 25-3; Jan 17-8; Apr 17-8; May 8-7
Thomas, Lowell. Feb 28-8
Thompson, Dorothy. Nov 1-8
Thorpe, Merle. Jan 31-8
Tojo, Hideki. Mar 6-2
Tomlinson, Edward. May 22-2
Treaty-making. See United States: Congress—treaty-making
Truk. Feb 28-4
Truman, Harry S. Mar 20-4, 7
- Turkey. Dec 13-1, 2; Mar 13-5; Apr 24-4; May 1-1
Two-thirds rule. See United States: Congress—treaty-making
- U**
Union of South Africa. May 15-1
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. See Russia
United Kingdom. See Great Britain
United Nations flag. May 1-4
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Nov 29-4; Dec 6-4
United States:
Army. Oct 4-4; Oct 18-5; Dec 6-5; May 8-4
budget. Jan 24-2
Congress—
appropriations. Jan 24-5
five senators report. Oct 25-1
legislation. Sep 13-2; Mar 13-3; May 22-4
membership. Dec 13-5
President's relations with. Mar 6-4; Mar 13-1
pressure groups. Dec 13-1
procedure and proposed reforms. Oct 25-2; Oct 15-3; Nov 29-4; Mar 6-3; Mar 13-3; May 8-2
treaty-making. Sep 20-2; Oct 25-2
Truman Committee. Mar 20-4, 7
Federal Communications Commission. Oct 18-6
Foreign Economic Administration. Oct 11-1; foreign policy. Sep 13-1; Sep 20-1; Sep 27-3; Oct 4-1, 2, 6, 8; Oct 25-1, 2; Nov 8-4, 5; Nov 15-1, 4; Feb 28-3; Apr 3-1, 4; Apr 24-4; May 15-2; May 22-7
Navy. Oct 4-4; Oct 18-5; Oct 25-4; Nov 8-5; May 8-4
Office of Price Administration. Oct 4-4; Nov 1-4; May 15-4
Office of War Information. Oct 11-5; Oct 25-6; Feb 21-4
politics—
congressional elections. Nov 15-2; Mar 20-4
"labels" used in. May 1-1
parties. Sep 20-1; Feb 7-2
presidential campaign (1944). Sep 13-1; Sep 20-2; Nov 1-3; Jan 10-1; Jan 31-4; Feb 21-4; Feb 28-2, 5; Apr 3-4; Apr 17-1; May 1-1; May 8-1
primary elections. Feb 28-2; Apr 17-1
Supreme Court. Oct 11-4; Apr 17-4
- V**
Valera, Eamon de. Mar 27-2
Vandercook, John W. Mar 20-8
Van Doren, Irita. May 1-2
Vargas, Getulio. May 1-5
Veterans. Nov 8-5; Jan 17-4; Jan 31-4; Feb 7-5; Feb 14-5; Feb 28-4
Victor Emmanuel III, King. Oct 11-3; Apr 24-5
Victory Fleet Day. Sep 27-1
Vinson, Fred M. Jan 10-6; Mar 13-2
Voting:
18-year-old age limit. Sep 13-1
by members of the armed services. Nov 29-5; Dec 13-5; Jan 3-4; Jan 24-1; Feb 14-1; Mar 13-5
by Negroes in primary elections. Apr 17-4
- W**
Wages. Nov 1-4; Nov 8-1
Wallace, DeWitt and Lila Bell. Nov 15-1
Wallace, Henry. Sep 20-5; Nov 1-5; Feb 28-5; May 1-5
Walsh, Richard J. Jan 24-8
War atrocities. See Atrocities, war.
War criminals. Nov 8-4; Nov 15-8
War fronts:
General surveys. Sep 13-8; Jan 24-4; Apr 3-8
air (Europe). Sep 13-2; Nov 29-4; Dec 6-5; Jan 24-2; Mar 13-4; Mar 20-4; Mar 27-1; May 1-4
Burma. Nov 1-1; Mar 13-4
China. Dec 6-4; Dec 13-4; May 22-4
India. Apr 3-4; Apr 17-4; Apr 24-4; May 1-4
Italy. Sep 20-1; Sep 27-4; Nov 8-4; Dec 13-4; Jan 17-4; Feb 7-5; Feb 14-5; Feb 28-4
Pacific. Oct 25-4; Nov 8-4; Nov 15-4; Nov 29-4; Dec 6-4; Jan 3-4; Jan 10-1; Feb 7-4; Feb 14-4; Feb 21-4; Feb 28-4; Mar 6-4; Apr 17-4; May 1-8
Russia. Sep 13-2; Oct 4-4; Oct 11-5; Nov 1-4; Nov 8-4; Nov 15-4; Nov 29-4; Jan 17-1; Jan 31-4; Apr 17-4; Apr 24-4; May 1-4
Yugoslavia. Oct 11-4
Washington, D. C. Sep 20-3
Weeks, Edward. Sep 20-8
Welles, Sumner. Sep 13-5; Nov 1-4
White, William Allen. Feb 7-1
Willkie, Wendell. Sep 20-7; Nov 1-4; Apr 17-1
Wilson, Charles E. Jan 3-6; Jan 10-6
Winchell, Walter. May 8-8
Women:
in armed services. Oct 4-5
equal rights amendment. Jan 17-5
Woodward, W. E. May 22-5
- Y**
Young Men's Christian Association. May 15-1
Young, Stark. Oct 18-8
Yugoslavia. Sep 27-6; Oct 4-6; Oct 11-4; Nov 8-1, 2; Jan 10-4; Apr 24-5
- Z**
Zionism. Dec 13-5; Mar 13-1

